

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7143

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0241

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR, CSCE

SUBJECT: FINNS SUGGEST AMBASSADOR SEE PRESIDENT

KEKKONEN ON CSCE, MBFR, ENERGY, ETC.

BEFORE KEKKONEN'S TRIP TO USSR DURING

LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY

1. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN ON FEBRUARY ONE, AT WHICH KARJALAINEN AND I DISCUSSED THE ENERGY CRISIS, THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, CSCE, MBFR, AND OTHER TOPICS, (MEMCON POUCHED FEBRUARY 5), KARJALAINEN CONFIRMED SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WOULD AGAIN BE MAKING AN UNOFFICIAL TRIP TO ZAVIDOVO TO SEE THE SOVIET LEADERS, PROBABLY DURING THE LAST TEN DAYS OF FEBRUARY.
2. KARJALAINEN ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WOULD WELCOME A CALL BY ME TO DISCUSS MATTERS SUCH AS CSCE, MBFR, ENERGY, ETC. IN FACT, KARJALAINEN STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT I MAKE ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY THROUGH KEKKONEN'S CHIEF MILITARY AIDE, GENERAL LEVO, FOR SUCH A MEETING BEFORE KEKKONEN'S TRIP TO RUSSIA.
3. CSCE IS OBVIOUSLY OF GREAT CONCERN TO KEKKONEN, SINCE HE WAS ONE OF ITS MAIN ARCHITECTS, AND SINCE CONFIDENTIAL

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HELSINKI WAS THE LOCALE FOR THE FIRST PHASE AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE SO AGAIN FOR PHASE THREE -- WITH JUNE/JULY CONSIDERED THE LIKELY TIME. WHILE ANXIOUS TO SEE PHASE THREE COME ABOUT IN HELSINKI, KEKKONEN

IS AT THE SAME TIME CONCERNED THAT IT NOT BE AN
EMPTY GESTURE, AND THEREFORE EXTREMELY INTERESTED
IN OUTLOOK FOR CSCE AND IN ANYTHING HE CAN DO TO
SMOOTH THE WAY.

4. KEKKONEN ALSO CLEARLY REALIZES THAT THERE IS
AN INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROGRESS AT THE MBFR,
SALT, AND MIDDLE EAST TALKS AS INGREDIENTS OF US-
SOVIET DETENTE, AND THE CSCE.

5. UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, I PLAN TO
REQUEST A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN FOR SOME
TIME IN MID-FEBRUARY, AS SUGGESTED BY KARJALAINEN.
MY RELATIONS WITH KEKKONEN HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT
AND VERY CORDIAL, BUT SOMEWHAT LIMITED BY WHAT
HAS SEEMED APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF ANY
SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS. I DO FEEL STRONGLY
THOUGH, THAT WE SHOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO OFFERS
SUCH AS THIS, AND AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON
OUR VIEWS REGARDING SUBJECTS OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN
TO KEKKONEN, SUCH AS THE CSCE.

6. WITH THAT IN MIND, AND WITH DUE CONSIDERATION
TO THE FACT THAT KEKKONEN IS ONE WESTERNER THE
SOVIET LEADERS LISTEN TO -- GIVEN HIS LONG TIME
RAPPORT WITH THEM -- I WOULD APPRECIATE AS SPECIFIC
AND COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONS AS POSSIBLE FOR MY
DISCUSSION WITH KEKKONEN, PARTICULARLY ON SCSCE,
BUT ALSO ON MBFR, ENERGY, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AS
WELL AS ANY OTHER TOPIC THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE
ME TO RAISE WITH HIM.
KREHBIEL

CONFIDENTIAL

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